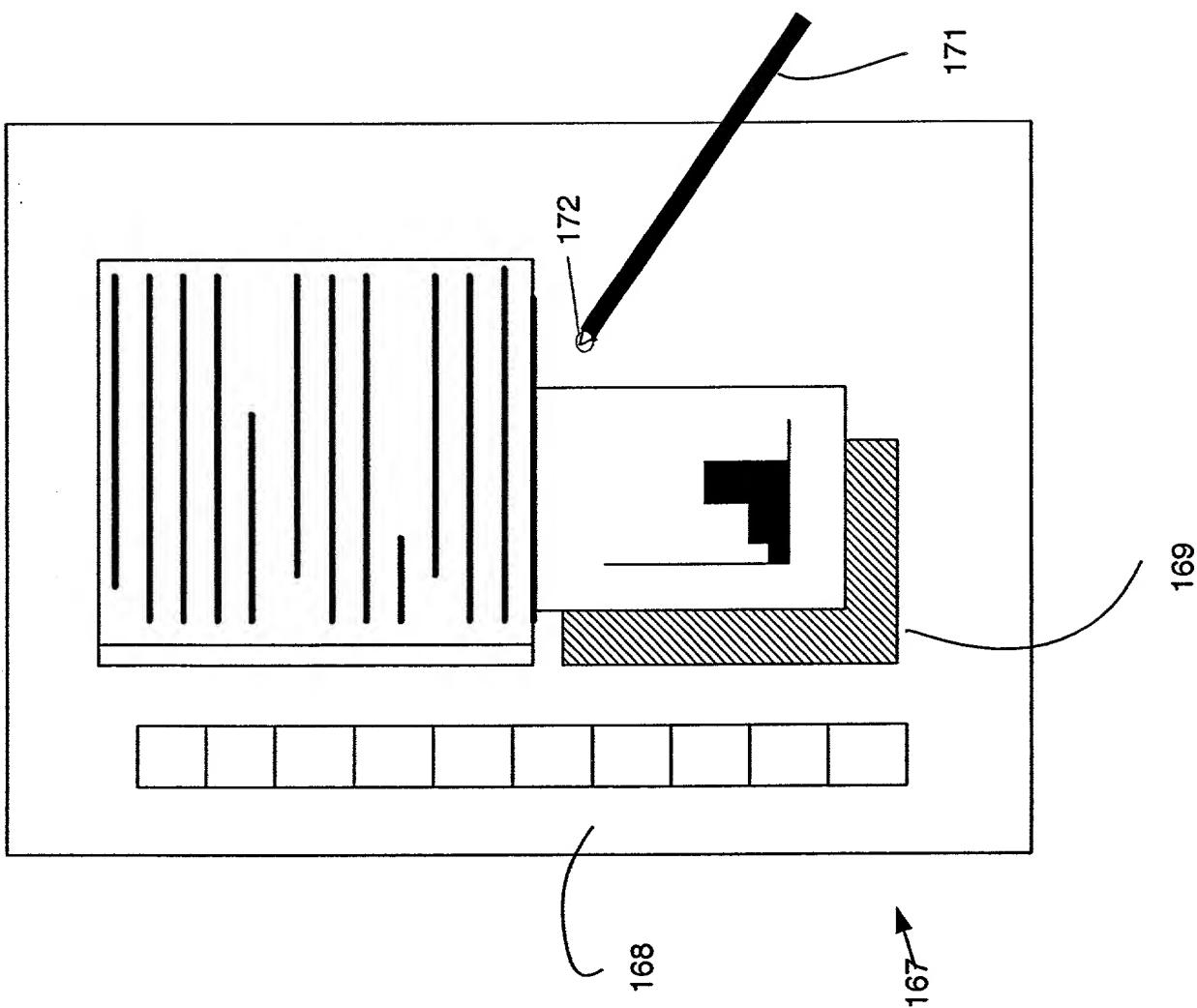
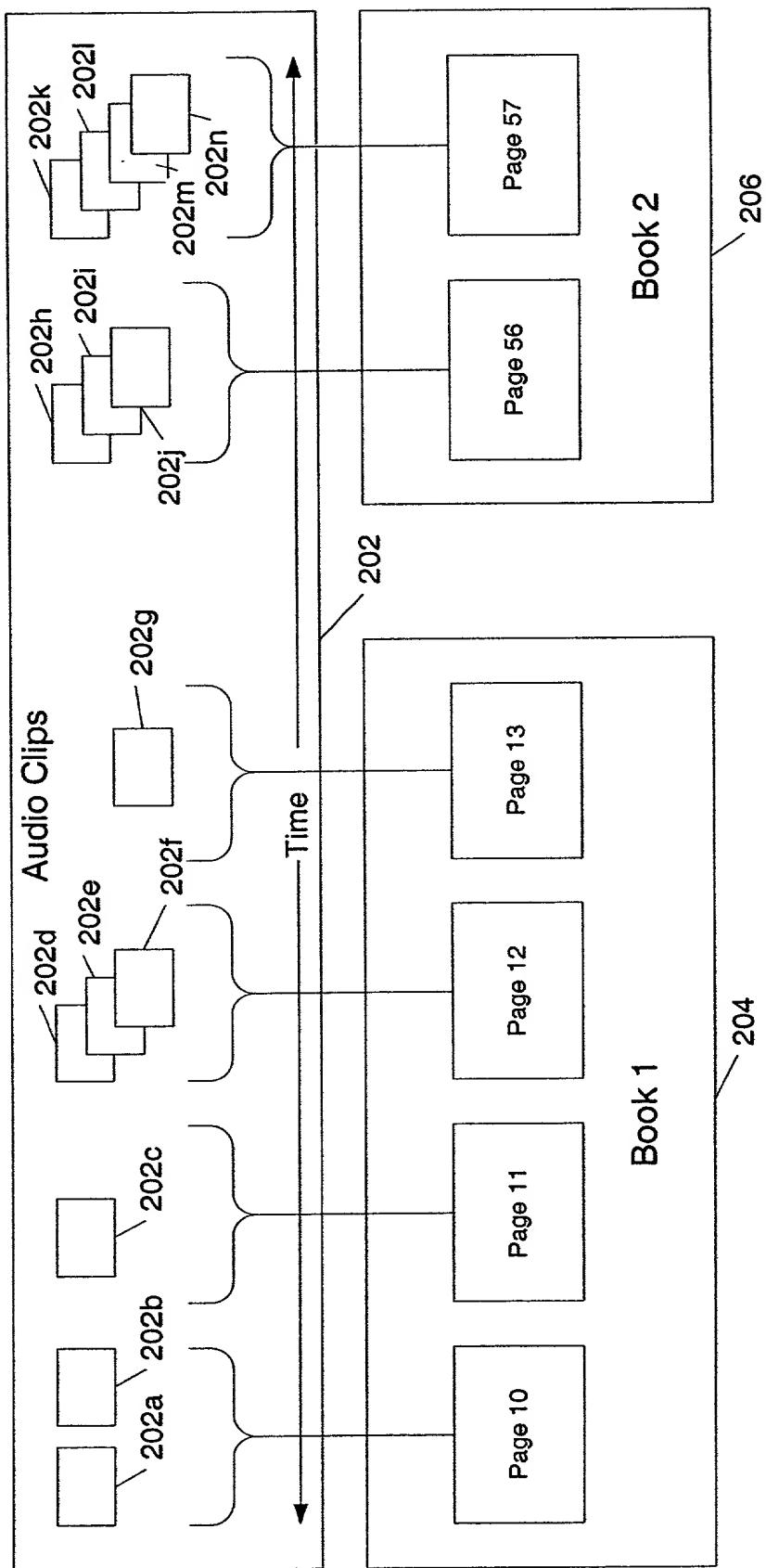


**Figure 1**

**Figure 1B**





**Figure 2**

a farce, or, in plainer language, a humbug.

One question, however, remained. Did such a being exist? This telegram flashed across the depths of the Atlantic, the designation of the vessel on board, which he was to take his passage, the date assigned for his speedy arrival, all combined to impart a certain character of reality to the proposal. They must get some clearer notion of the matter. Scattered groups of inquirers at length condensed themselves into a compact crowd, which made straight for the residence of President Barbicane. That worthy individual was keeping quiet with the intention of watching events as they arose. But he had forgotten to take into account the public impatience; and it was with no peasant countenance that he watched the population of Tampa Town gathering under his windows. The murmurs and vociferations below presently obliged him to appear. He came forward, therefore, and, on silence being procured, a citizen, put point-blank to him the following question: "Is the person mentioned in the telegram, under the name of Michel Ardan, on his way here? Yes or no."

"Gentlemen," replied Barbicane, "I know no more than you do."

"We must know," roared the impatient voices.

"Time will show," calmly replied the president.

"Time has no business to keep a whole country in suspense," replied the orator. "Have you altered the plans of the projectile according to the request of the telegram?"

"Not yet, gentlemen; but you are right; we must have better information to go by. The telegraph must complete its information."

"To the telegraph!" roared the crowd.

Barbicane descended and heading the immense assemblage, led the way to the telegraph office. A few minutes later, a telegram was dispatched to the secretary of the underwriters at Liverpool, requesting answers to the following queries: "About the ship *Atlanta* - when did she leave Europe?"

Had she on board a Frenchman, named Michel Ardan?"

"Two hours afterward Barbicane received information too exact to leave room for the smallest remaining doubt.

"The steamer *Atlanta* from Liverpool put to sea on the 2nd of October, bound for Tampa Town, having on board a Frenchman, borne on the list of passengers by the name

of Michel Ardan."

That very evening he wrote to the house of Bradwall and Co., requesting them to suspend the casting of the projectile until the receipt of further orders. On the 10th

of October at nine A.M., the semaphores of the Alabama Canal signaled a thick smoke on the horizon. Two hours later a large steamer exchanged signals with them; the name of the *Atlanta* flew at once over Tampa Town. At four o'clock the English vessel entered the Bay of Espiritu Santo. At five it crossed the passage of Hillsborough Bay at full steam. At six the cast anchor at Port Tampa.

The anchor had scarcely caught the sandy bottom when five hundred boats surrounded the *Atlanta*, and the steamer was taken by assault. Barbicane was the first to set foot on deck, and in a voice of which he vainly tried to conceal the emotion, called "Michel Ardan."

"Here!" replied an individual perched on the poop.

Barbicane, with arms crossed, looked fixedly at the passenger of the *Atlanta*.

He was a man of about forty-two years of age, of large build, but slightly round-shouldered. His massive head momentarily shook a shock of reddish hair, which resembled a lion's mane. His face was short with a broad forehead,

and furnished with a moustache as bristly as a cat's, and little patches of yellowish whiskers upon full cheeks. Round, wildish eyes, slightly near-sighted, completed a physiognomy essentially feline. His nose was firmly shaped, his mouth particularly sweet in expression, high forehead, intelligent and furrowed, with wrinkles like a newly plowed field. The body was powerfully developed and firmly fit.

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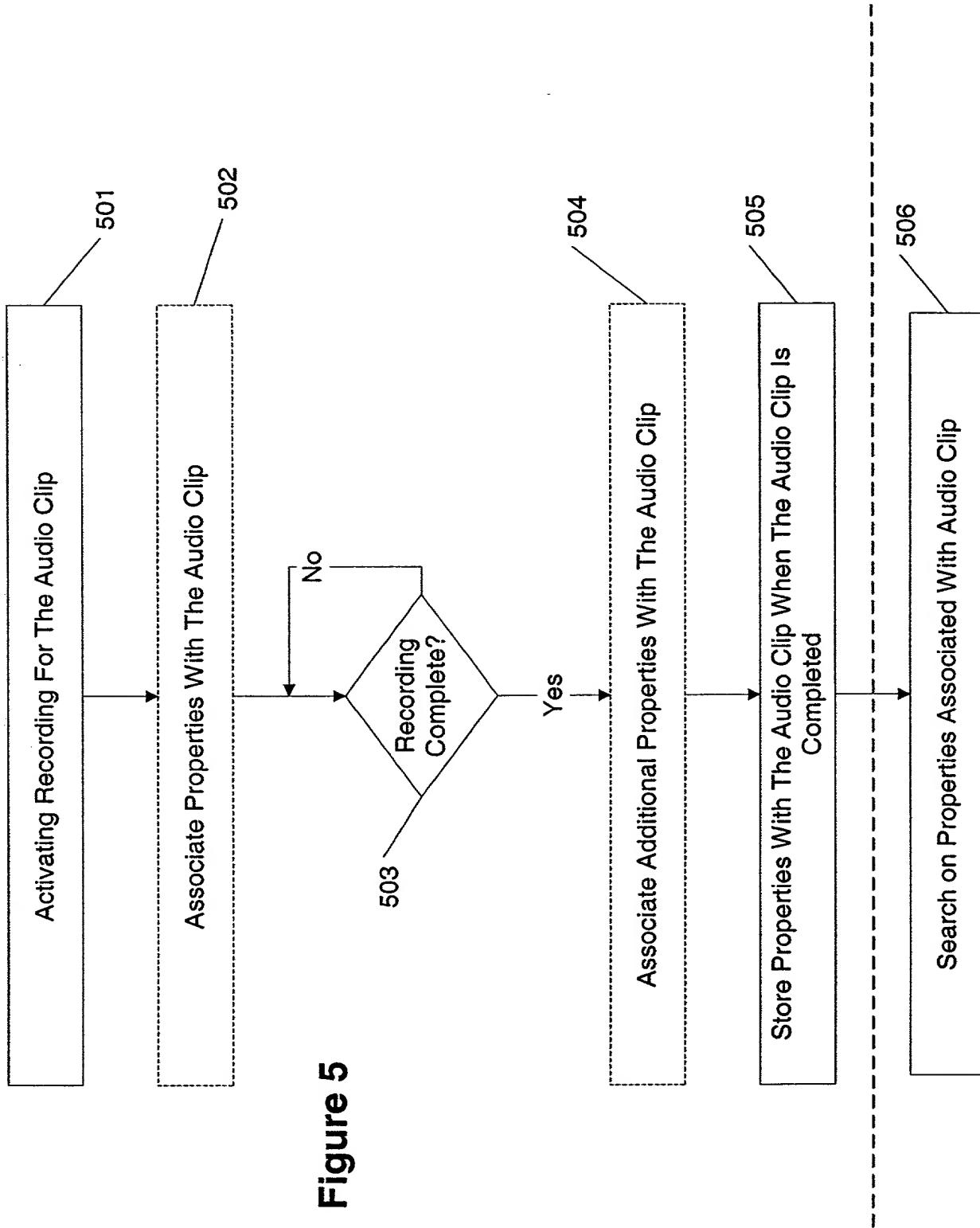
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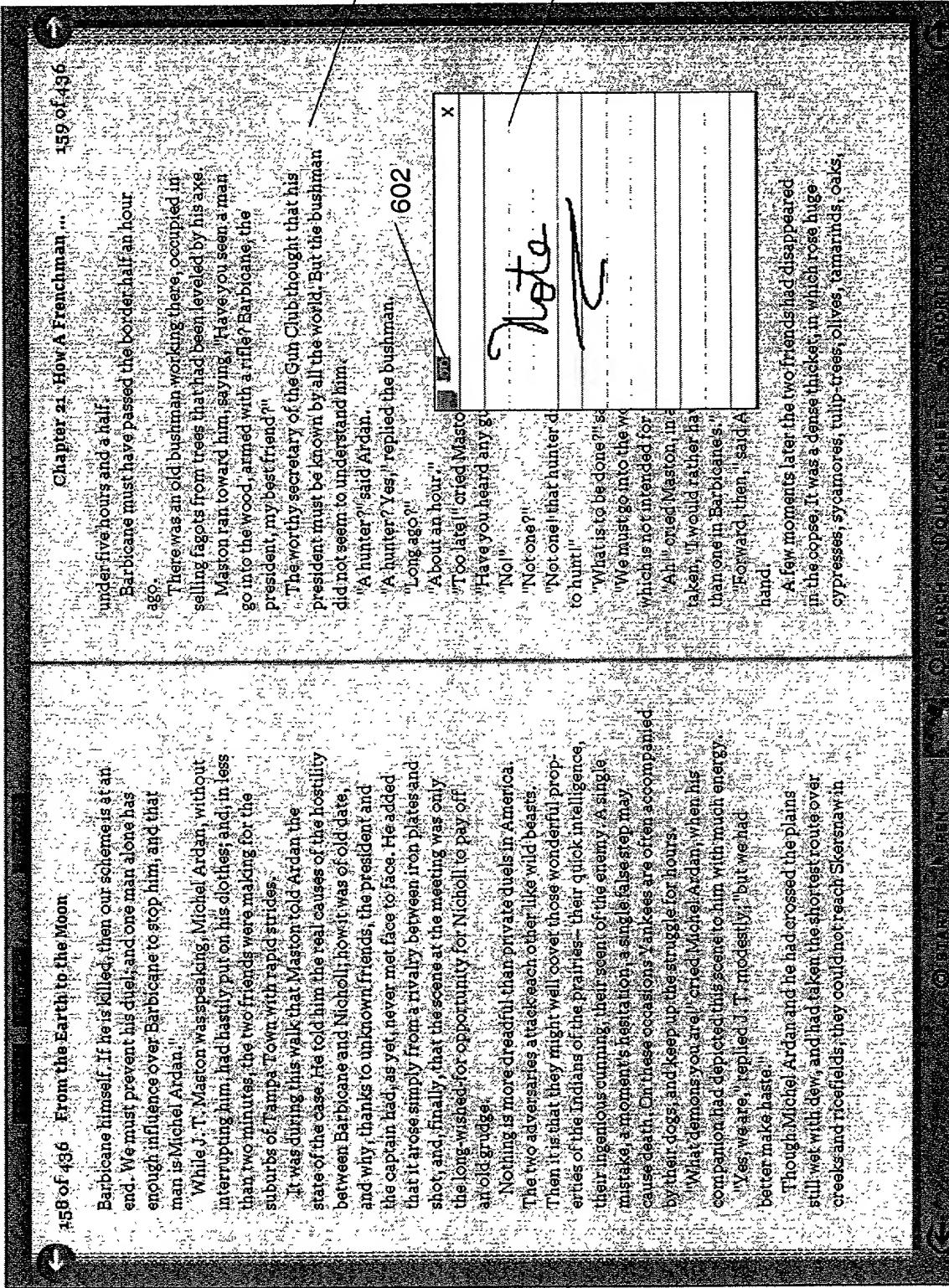
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**Figure 5**

Figure 6



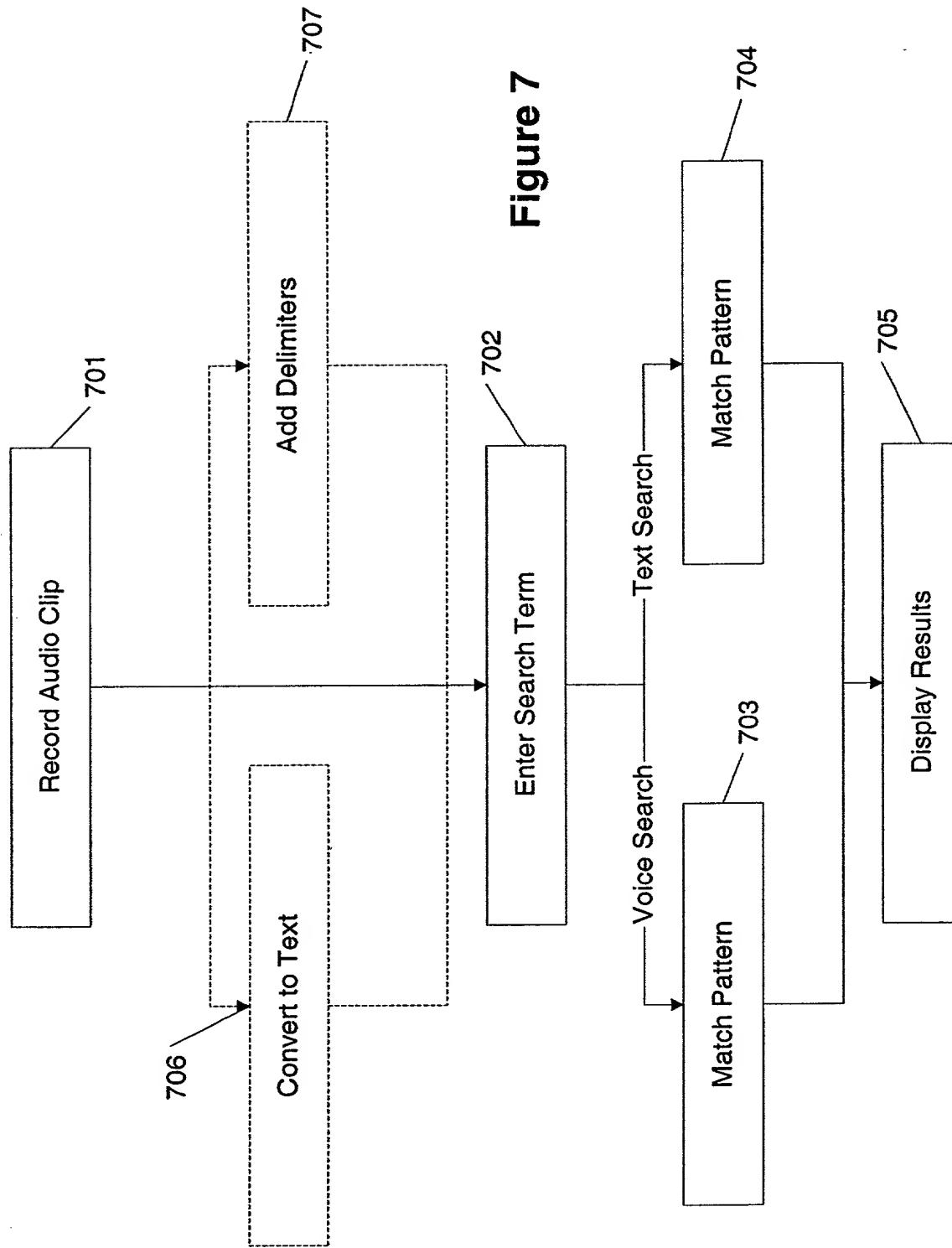
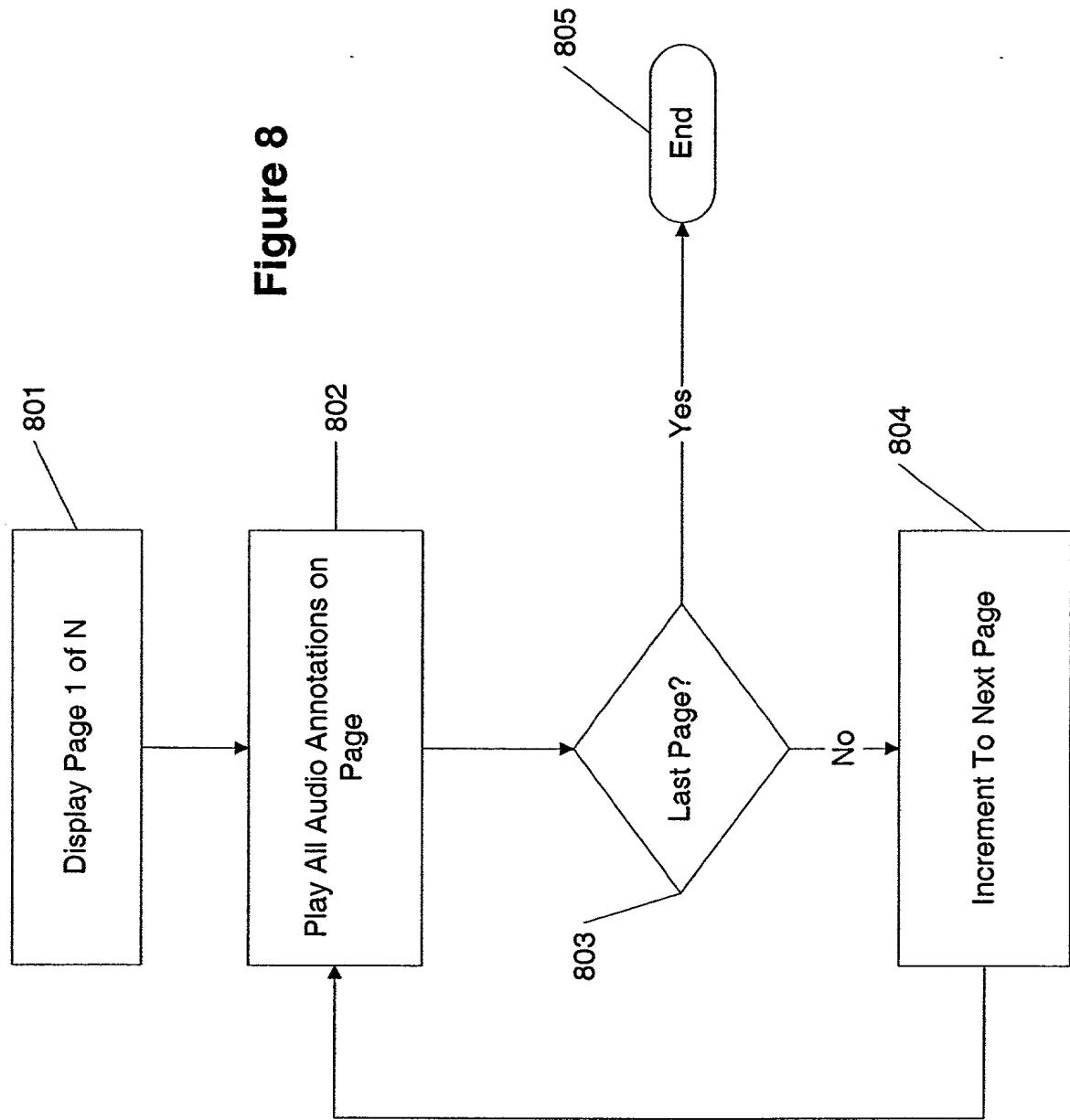


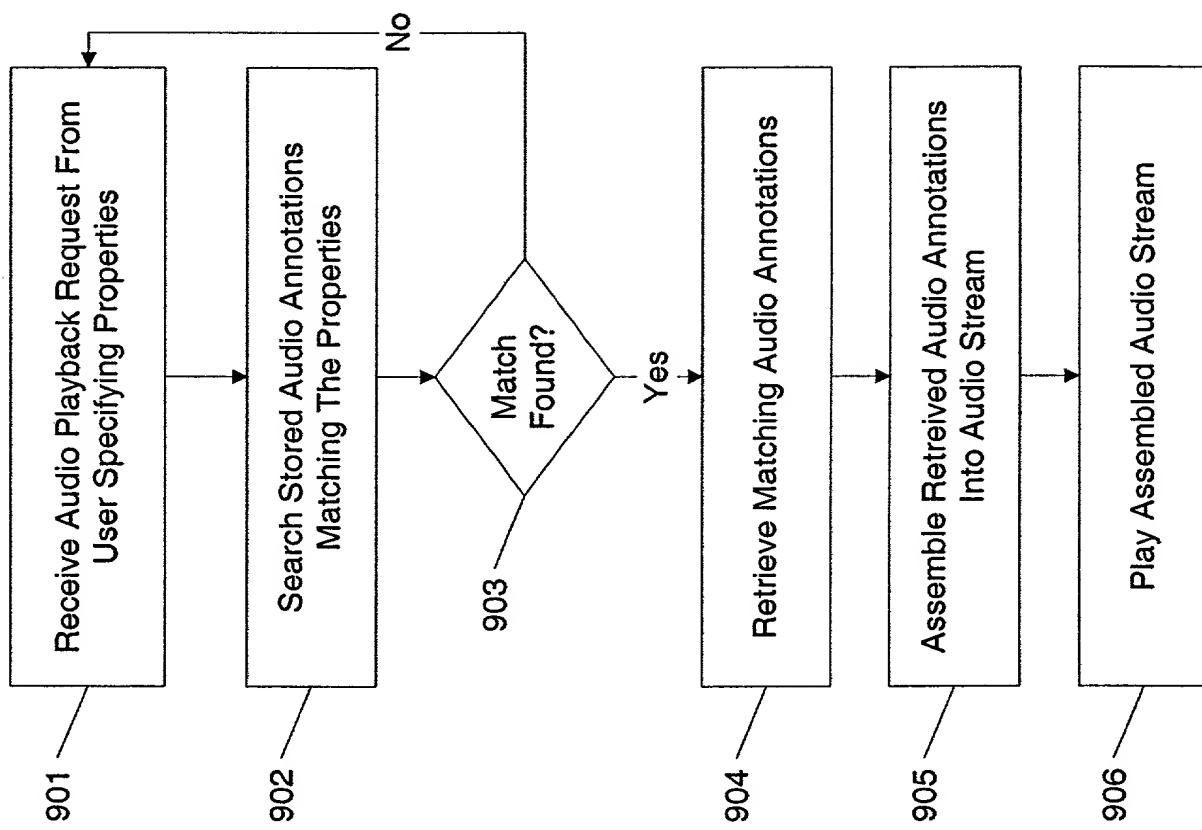
Figure 7

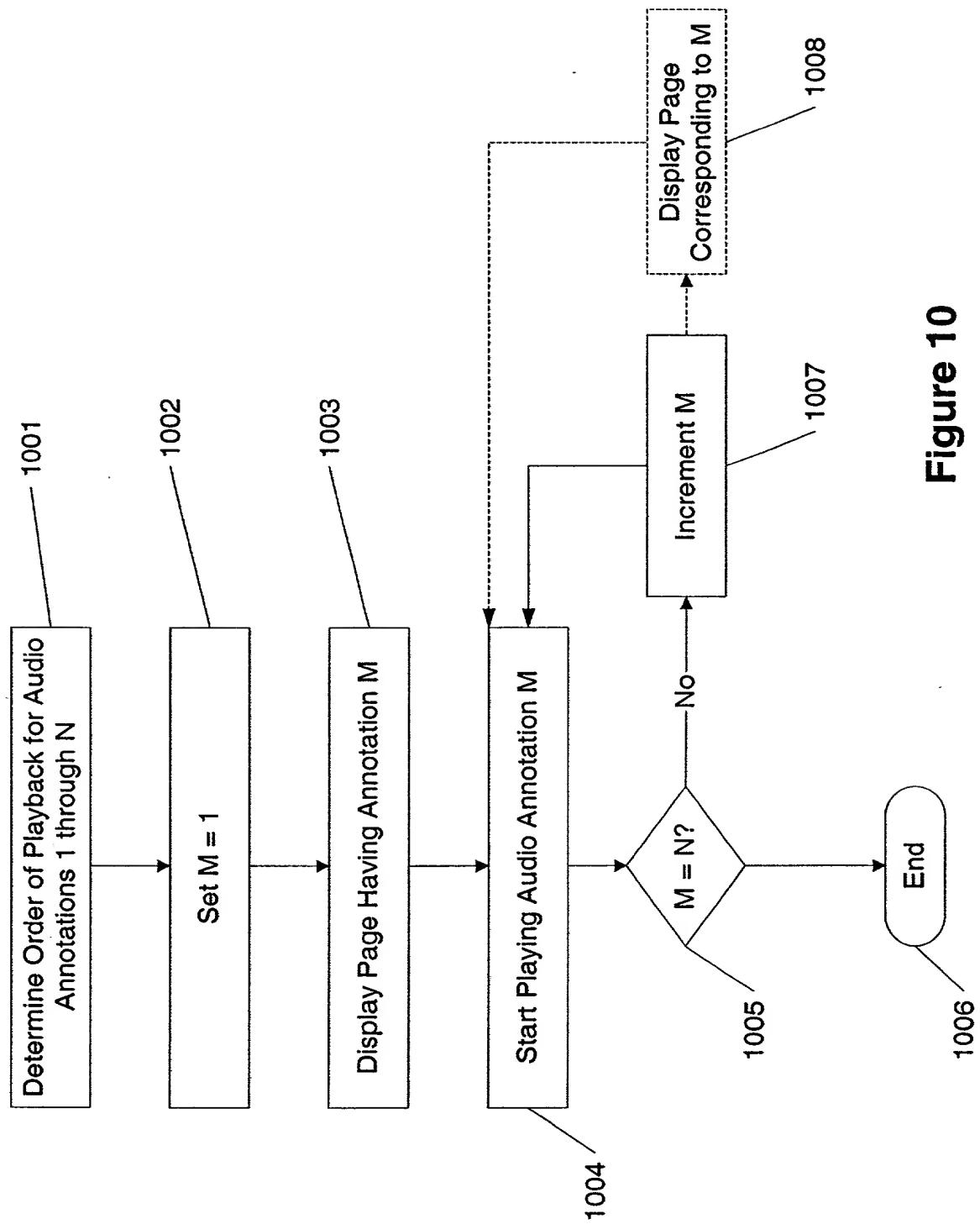
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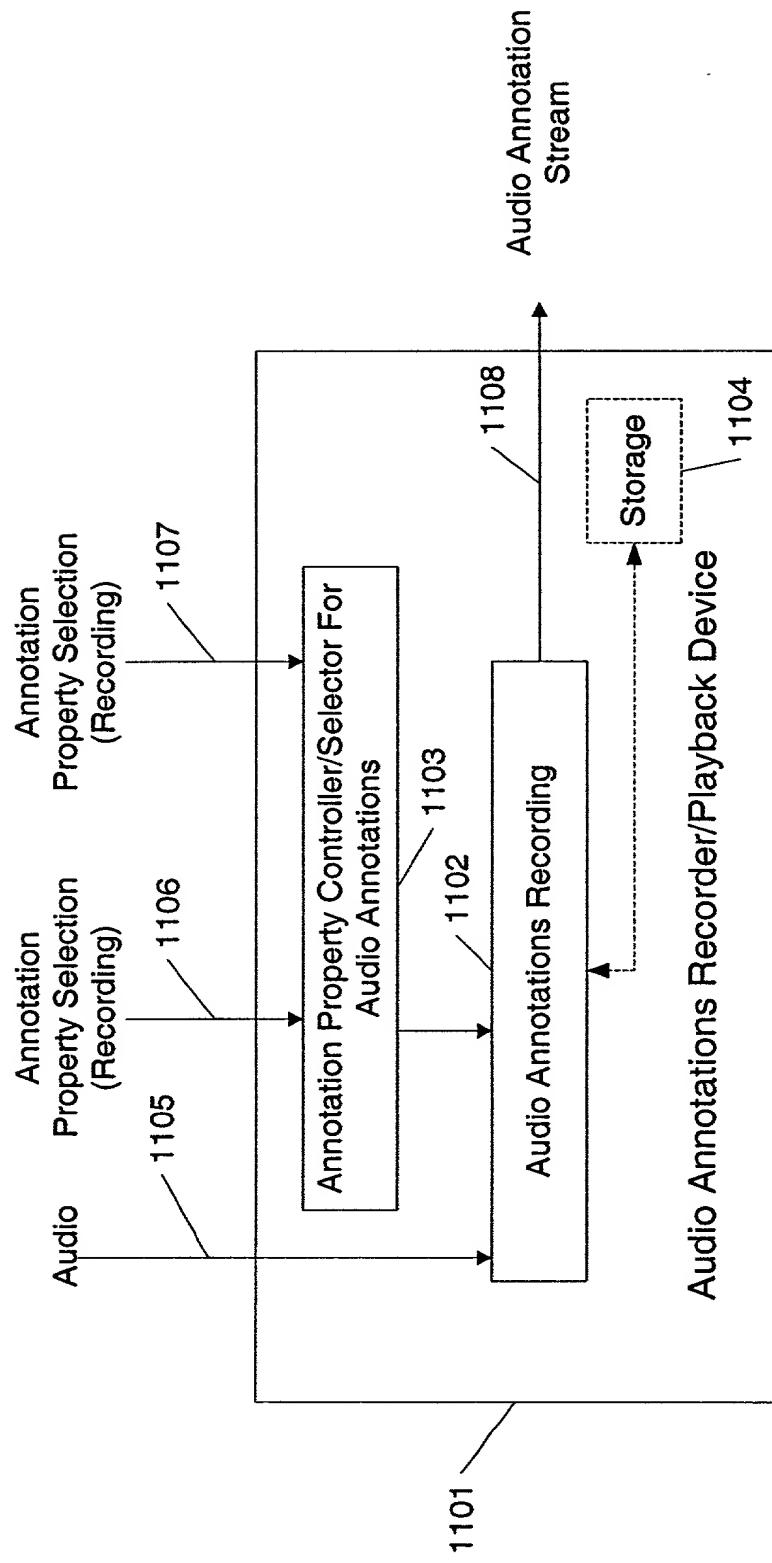
**Figure 8**

**Figure 9**



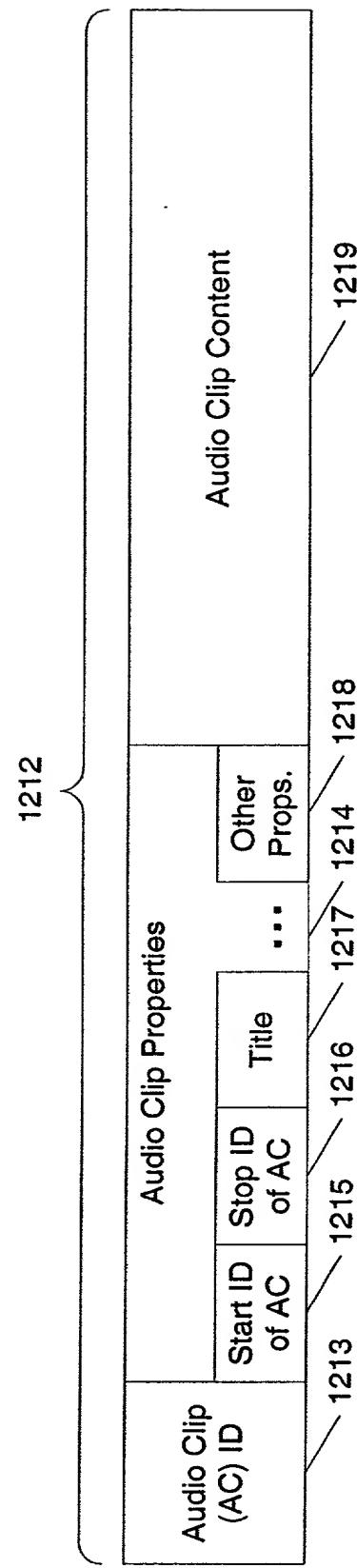
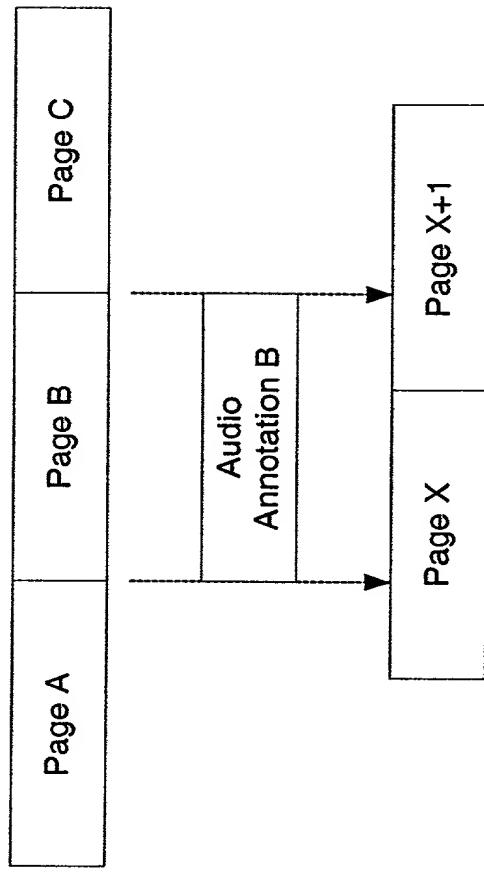


**Figure 10**



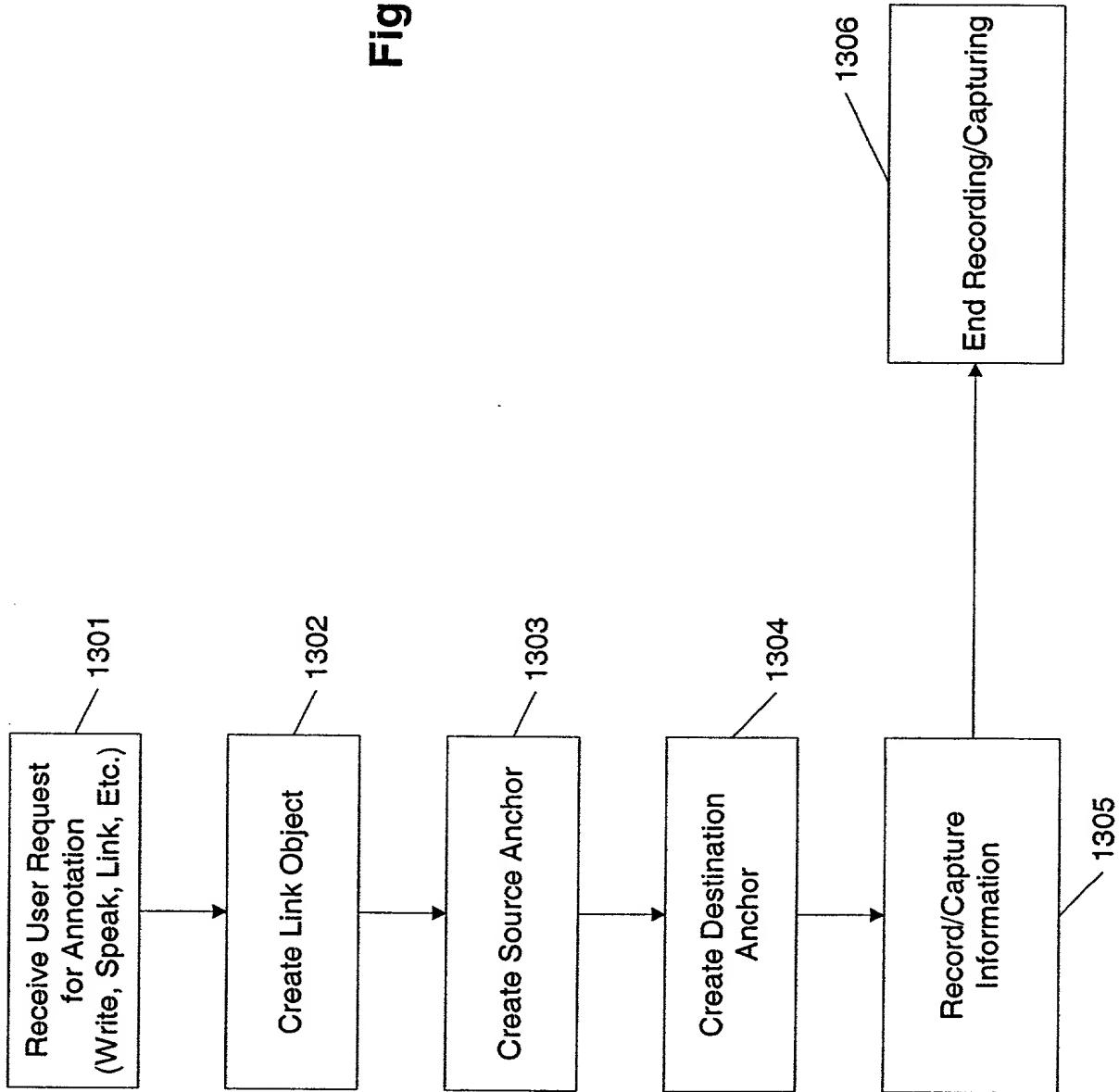
**Figure 11**

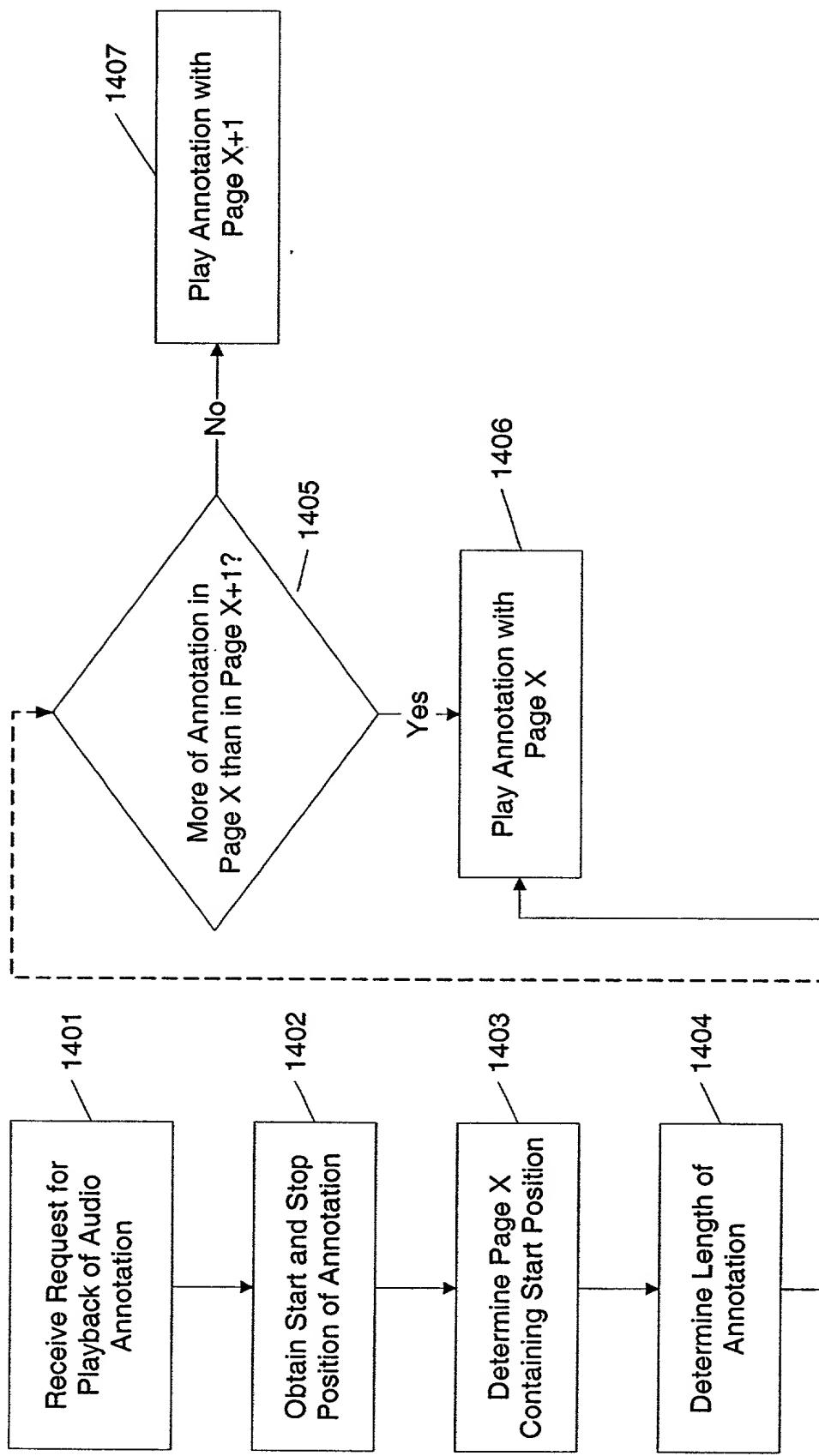
**Figure 12A**



**Figure 12B**

**Figure 13**





**Figure 14**